

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A septic tank and system for pumping liquid from the septic tank as effluent to a drain field comprising:

a pump for drawing liquid from the septic tank and pumping the liquid as effluent to the drain field;

a strainer for straining certain particulate matter from the liquid before the liquid enters the pump;

the strainer comprising a straining screen through which the pump draws the liquid for limiting the size of particulate matter that can pass to the pump;

at least one nozzle that receives some of the effluent being pumped by the pump and that is aimed toward the screen for directing effluent toward the screen to dislodge particulate matter from an area of the screen while the pump draws liquid through the screen;

wherein the screen and nozzle are arranged for relative movement so that the area of the screen being acted on by the effluent from the nozzle changes as the pump operates.

2. (original) A septic tank and system as set forth in Claim 1 including a pump vault disposed within the tank, and wherein the pump is disposed within the vault.

3. (original) A septic tank and system as set forth in Claim 2 wherein the vault comprises a wall having an opening through which liquid in the septic tank enters the vault.

4. (original) A septic tank and system as set forth in Claim 3 wherein the vault comprises a closed bottom wall and a cylindrical side wall extending upright from the bottom wall, the opening comprises a series of holes in the side wall spaced above the bottom wall, and the strainer is disposed within the vault below the level of the series of holes.

5. (original) A septic tank and system as set forth in Claim 4 wherein the strainer and the pump are disposed side-by-side within the vault.

6. (original) A septic tank and system as set forth in Claim 5 wherein the strainer and the pump comprise respective vertical walled housings that are connected by a horizontal tube through which liquid that has been strained by the strainer passes to the pump.

7. (original) A septic tank and system as set forth in Claim 6 wherein the screen is stationarily mounted in the walled housing of the strainer and the nozzle is disposed within the walled housing of the strainer and arranged to move relative to the screen.

Claims 8-14 (canceled)

15. (original) A septic tank and system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the strainer and the pump are disposed side-by-side within the septic tank, and the screen is spaced vertically above a bottom wall of the tank.

16. (original) A septic tank and system as set forth in Claim 15 wherein the strainer and the pump comprise respective vertical walled housings that are connected by a horizontal tube through which liquid that has been strained by the strainer passes to the pump.

17. (original) A septic tank and system as set forth in Claim 16 wherein the screen is stationarily mounted in the walled housing of the strainer and the nozzle is disposed within the walled housing of the strainer and arranged to move relative to the screen.

18. (original) A septic tank and system as set forth in Claim 16 wherein the horizontal tube is disposed vertically above the screen.

19. (original) A septic tank and system as set forth in Claim 16 wherein the horizontal tube is disposed vertically below the screen.

Claims 20-24 (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A system for use in pumping liquid from a septic tank as effluent to a drain field comprising:

a pump for drawing liquid from the septic tank and  
pumping the liquid as effluent to the drain field;

a strainer for straining certain particulate matter from  
the liquid before the liquid enters the pump;

the strainer comprising a straining screen through which  
the pump draws the liquid;

at least one nozzle that receives some of the effluent  
being pumped by the pump and that is aimed toward the screen  
for directing effluent toward the screen to dislodge  
particulate matter from an area of the screen while the pump  
draws liquid through the screen;

wherein the screen and nozzle are arranged for relative  
movement so that the area of the screen being acted on by the  
effluent from the nozzle changes as the pump operates;

including a pump vault adapted to be disposed within the  
tank, wherein the pump is disposed within the vault, the vault  
comprises a wall having an opening through which liquid in the  
septic tank enters the vault, and

~~A system as set forth in Claim 24~~ wherein the vault  
comprises a closed bottom wall and a cylindrical side wall  
extending upright from the bottom wall, the opening comprises  
a series of holes in the side wall spaced above the bottom  
wall, and the strainer is disposed within the vault below the  
level of the series of holes.

26. (currently amended) A system for use in pumping  
liquid from a septic tank as effluent to a drain field  
comprising:

a pump for drawing liquid from the septic tank and  
pumping the liquid as effluent to the drain field;

a strainer for straining certain particulate matter from the liquid before the liquid enters the pump;

the strainer comprising a straining screen through which the pump draws the liquid;

at least one nozzle that receives some of the effluent being pumped by the pump and that is aimed toward the screen for directing effluent toward the screen to dislodge particulate matter from an area of the screen while the pump draws liquid through the screen;

wherein the screen and nozzle are arranged for relative movement so that the area of the screen being acted on by the effluent from the nozzle changes as the pump operates;

including a pump vault adapted to be disposed within the tank, wherein the pump is disposed within the vault, the vault comprises a wall having an opening through which liquid in the septic tank enters the vault, and

~~A system as set forth in Claim 24~~ wherein the strainer comprises a walled housing and the screen is stationarily mounted in the walled housing of the strainer and the nozzle is disposed within the walled housing of the strainer and arranged to move relative to the screen.

Claims 27-31 (canceled)

32. (original) A method for limiting size of particulate matter entering the pumping system of a septic tank comprising:

providing a strainer for placement in septic tank liquid wherein the strainer comprises a straining screen for limiting the size of particulate matter that can pass to the pump and at least one nozzle that are relatively movable for enabling

the nozzle to move across the screen and emit effluent to dislodge particulate matter in the liquid from an area of the screen;

connecting the strainer to an inlet of a pump so that the pump is constrained to draw septic tank liquid through the screen, thereby straining the liquid before it enters the pump inlet; and

connecting the strainer to an outlet of the pump so that some of the strained liquid is returned to the nozzle to be emitted toward the screen and to impart relative movement to the screen and nozzle.

Claim 33 (canceled)